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An Interview with Wendy-Marie Aylward

Wendy-Marie Aylward
SUNY Geneseo

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An Interview with Wendy-Marie Aylward

Hometown: *Olney, MD*

Major: *English with Adolescent Certification*

Hobbies/Inspiration: *Sign language and deaf culture. I am co-president of Gestures: Organization for Deaf Awareness. I like to read a lot. I like to be in dance performances.*

Do/did you like Geneseo? Why did you choose to come to Geneseo?

Wendy: Initially, I came to Geneseo because of the Creative Writing program but I ended up not doing that. I stayed because I really enjoy the atmosphere on campus. The campus just feels very comfortable. Most of the professors are very personable, I feel that I can actually speak with them and inquire for help. There are a lot of opportunities on campus that I probably would not be able to have on a bigger campus because it is easy to get lost in the crowd. I just found a lot of things to do here.

Why do you feel that GREAT Day is important?

Well, there are two main reasons. The first is that GREAT Day is important to students on a personal level. It serves as a great validation and motivation for students to do well, aside from just getting graded, because students have the opportunity to present their own work and the chance to really excel at something. They get to share that with other people. The second reason is that it is good for students to see what their peers are doing. There are all kinds of interesting things that happen in our classes that we lose sight of with all the grading and GPAs and whatnot. We are turning out interesting work that is worth sharing, GREAT Day allows us to see that.

How did it feel to present your work at GREAT Day?

It was nerve-wracking.

Was it different from presenting in a regular classroom?

It definitely was different. I knew that my professor had nominated me, so in a way I felt that I was representing my professor and I did not want to let her down. But, also, people were giving their time to be there and to see my presentation so it was definitely different from a regular class presentation.